



SPRING 2020 ISSUE

WPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ABOUT THE WPNA

The WPNA is a non-partisan non-profit organization in which all meetings, programs, and events are free and open to the public. It is the purpose of the WPNA to enhance and maintain the quality of life in Waveland Park. The WPNA and all activities organized by the association are funded solely by the generosity of its members and business sponsors.

WPNA NEWSLETTER

The WPNA newsletter is the official publication of the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association. For questions, comments, or content submissions, contact: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 30112, Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone:(515) 650-9060
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MONTHLY MEMBER MEETINGS

The Board of Directors holds meetings on the second Monday of each month at Franklin Jr. High, 6:30-7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Please contact a board member if you would like an item discussed at an upcoming meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership in the WPNA is open to the public. Members in good standing are eligible to vote at membership meetings and weigh in on other important decisions that impact the quality of life in our neighborhood. Individual dues are \$15 per year, business dues are \$50 per year. Dues are payable by check or via PayPal online at www.wavelandpark.org. Annual dues are being collected now!

Got June, July or August events, news, or a historic home to brag about? Email jeanneambrose@me.com. Deadline for next issue is April 15.

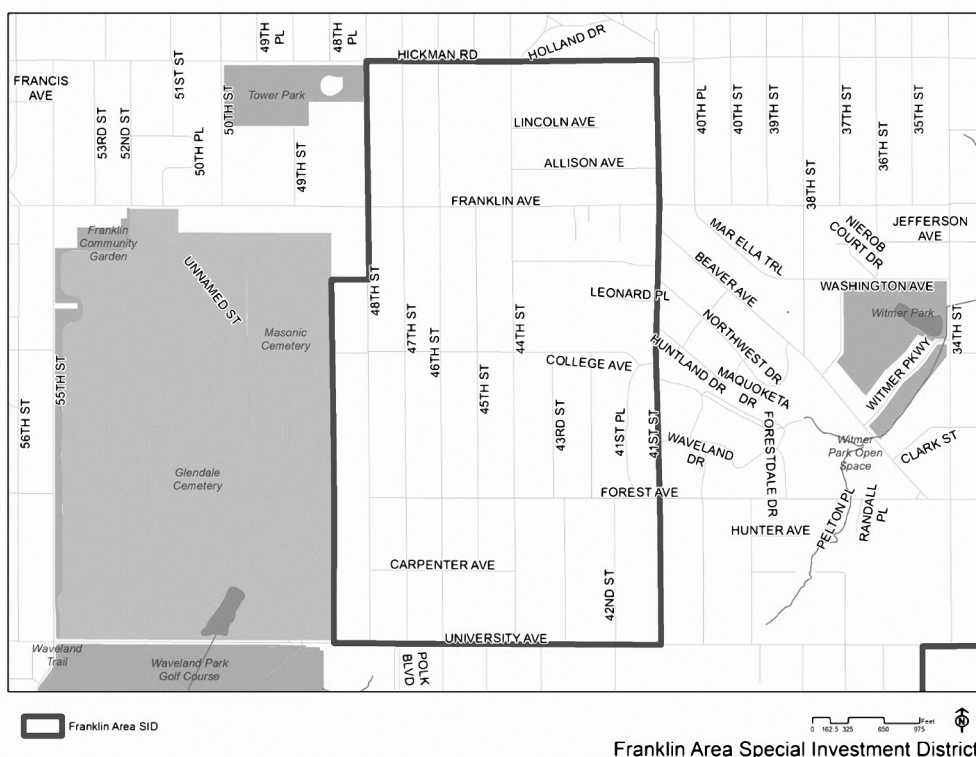
*This is not a Des Moines Public Schools publication and is being provided as a courtesy to inform you of other community activities and opportunities available.

Spruce Up Your Homes with Help from Invest DSM

By Jeanne Ambrose

Homeowners in Waveland Park struggling to finance much-needed renovation projects—indoors and out—may be able to get some help from Invest DSM, a new non-profit focused on making investments in four neighborhoods. Part of Waveland Park and Beaverdale are in one of those investment areas called the Franklin Area. (See map below) for qualifying Waveland Park area).

“We will provide incentives for homeowners to upgrade their home and property in order to make a vibrant, stable community,” says Amber Lynch, executive director of Invest DSM. The program’s goal is get investment back into older neighborhoods and strengthen areas that have fallen into disrepair. It also can help with the gap in funding for much-needed maintenance and upgrades to older homes. Projects might range from landscaping, to remodeling a bath or kitchen, putting on an addition, or a new garage. There also may be funding for small businesses, as well as larger commercial upgrades.



In the Franklin Area, which includes part of Waveland Park, the first program kicks off soon with a neighborhood challenge. Here are the details provided by Lynch.

- Our first program in 2020, the Block Challenge Grant, is aimed at exterior property improvements, and provides a dollar for dollar match, up to \$1,000. The challenge is for neighbors to work together. To receive program funds, at least five neighbors on the same street must apply as a team.
- For individual homeowner projects, our goals are to help with high-quality improvements that enhance curb appeal, marketability, and functionality of their homes so they

Continued on page 2

Get Set for a Hoppy Easter Egg Hunt!



By Melissa Culbertson

Hop on over to Perkins School for Waveland Park Neighborhood Association's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4 at 10 a.m.

The fun starts when the Des Moines Fire Department sounds the siren at 10 a.m., so arrive early to allow time to gather in the area appropriate for your children's ages (10 years old and younger)! The action is fast as everyone scurries to gather eggs filled with treats donated by area businesses. Most of the Easter eggs are scooped up by 10:15 a.m.!

The Easter Bunny will be there to say hello, along with members of the Des Moines Fire Department, the Des Moines Police Department, and plenty of your neighbors. Bring along baskets or bags for your kids to collect eggs. Perkins Elementary School is at 4301 College Ave.

We're still looking for more volunteers to help fill the eggs with treats. If you have an hour or two to help, please contact Melissa at culbertsonmelissaa@gmail.com.

Invest DSM - Continued from page 1

appreciate in value. Most projects (small and large) are eligible, and Invest DSM staff will work with homeowners and their contractor to finalize the scope of work. In April 2020, we will seek 3-4 homeowners in the Franklin Area to be test cases for this program, to help us finalize the process. Later in the year, the program will be available to all homeowners in the Special Investment District. There are no income restrictions, and Invest DSM will work in the Franklin Area for 10 years.

- Once a homeowner's project is approved, Invest DSM shares the cost of that project. The portion that Invest DSM pays ranges from 25-50%, depends on the total project cost, and is more generous for larger projects. Invest DSM's share is forgiven over time, so long as the homeowner stays in the house. The homeowner must be able to finance their portion themselves.
- To find out more about Invest DSM programs, email Info@InvestDSM.org. A website is launching in April at www.InvestDSM.org.



MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE - HELP KEEP WAVELAND PARK WONDERFUL!

If you've participated in our events, enjoy receiving this newsletter, or want to help us maintain our beautiful neighborhood, please join the WPNA today! Dues are annual, proving membership from January 1 to December 31. Dues are not prorated throughout the calendar year. Members will receive an annual dues reminder at the end of the year.

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Please make checks payable to WPNA and mail to: WPNA P.O. Box 30112 Des Moines, IA 50310
 Payment via PayPal is also available online at wavelandpark.org on the [Membership](#) page.



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How to Throw a Successful Block Party with These 7 Easy Steps



By Carol Lunde

Holding a block party is a great way to get to know your neighbors. And it's fun! We have had one for more than 25 years in our neighborhood.

I live in the middle of a street and have a cross street facing our home, so I include both of those streets—about 46 homes. We try to hold the block party at the same time every year. We usually aim for late August, the weekend after the kids are back in school and families are home from vacation.

Here are some tips I learned after years of helping organize our block party. You might want to start by gathering a few neighbors to help with the planning.

1. Pick the Date: We like summer and hold it in the street, blocked off with barricades.

2. Make a Flyer: Include date, time, and place. We make it a potluck. Don't worry too much about coordinating a menu. I usually bring a protein and others bring sides and desserts. On our flyer we tell everyone

to bring a chair, a dish to share, and their own drinks.

3. Get a Permit: If you are blocking off the street, you'll need to apply for a permit (about \$40). Find it online by going to dsm.city and searching for "street use permits." Or go to City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, with date, time, and location of your event. The City will deliver and pick up the barricades and Road Closed signs at the right time. They require 30 days notice, but it's nice to request the permit two or three months before the event. When your permit is approved, it's mailed to you. Put one of your neighbors in charge of getting the permit.

4. Assign Tasks: Create a list of who will bring tables and tablecloths, and other items for use by all. Games are always fun! At our block party, the kids decorate a bike for a prize. That means someone needs to get prizes and a few judges need to be recruited. It's a good idea to have prizes for all the kids, including glow sticks if your event runs past sunset. (The dollar stores are great sources for prizes.)

5. Distribute the Flyer: Hand out the flyers four to six weeks before the event.

6. Charge each family a fee: This covers the cost of the \$40 permit, plus the purchase of disposable dinner plates, napkins and plasticware such as forks, spoons, and knives for all, and prizes for kids. Usually \$5 to \$10 per family is enough. Put someone in charge of collecting it.

7. Set Up and Have Fun! Put up the barricades, set up the tables, meet and greet. Talk to people. Eat, drink, and be merry! (And be sure to have people stick around to help with the cleanup!)

Items to Have on Hand

Name tags, prizes, divided disposable plates, napkins, and disposable silverware. Line up tables and tablecloths. Plan to bring garbage cans lined with bags and recycle bins (or put someone in charge of this).

Have more questions for Carol? Find her at the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association monthly meetings, the second Monday of every month. She is the WPNA secretary.

Neighborhood Events

March 20 – May 9

Drake Observatory Viewing and Lectures

Spring series, 8 p.m. Friday nights March 20 through May 8. Sky viewing at dark, 4898 Observatory Rd., details at drake.edu/observatory/publicnights/

March 26

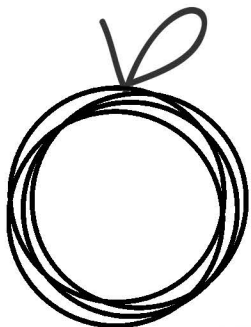
Trivia Night at Waveland Golf Course

\$25 entry fee per 8-member team, 4908 University Ave. Register your team online at bit.ly/wavelandtrivia

March 28

Snookie's Malt Shop Opens!!

Ice cream! At last. 1819 Beaver Ave.



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